**Introduction to *Oedipus Rex***

**Group Research Project**

**Assignment:**

You will work in groups of 2 or 3 to research a particular aspect of Ancient Greek life. Once you become experts on your topic, your group will create a Mixbook to help you teach your topic to the rest of the class. Each investigative question for your topic will represent a two-page spread in your Mixbook. The extra information requested by number 7 may be added to any page. See the rubric for evaluation. *As each group presents, you will be responsible for answering the questions below based on the presentations.*

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The Mixbook will include:

* A cover with a picture.
* A title page with a picture.
* A two-page spread including pictures for each investigation question (a minimum of six two-page spreads).
* A back cover with a minimum of three citations (three citations for information sources, and possibly one additional citation for images).
* A minimum of 15 total pictures.

Here are the steps to your process:

1. Determine who in your group will be investigating which subtopics (investigation questions).
2. Using library media center books and the featured web sites, investigate your group’s questions.
3. Complete your investigation form, indicating ideas for the 15 pictures you’d like to include, and seek approval for your form. No need to search for the pictures yet!
4. Using the storyboard and Mixbook directions for guidance, create and customize your book.
   1. Remember that the answer to each investigation question should be the basis for a two-page spread in your book. You do not need to include the questions in your Mixbook; instead, your responses should indicate the questions.
   2. Each two-page spread should include text and at least one picture.
   3. Select a variety of layouts, backgrounds, and stickers to enhance the book, but do not “crowd the pages.”
5. Present your Mixbook to the class in “Preview” mode. As you present, your classmates will be answering the same investigation questions that you were assigned, so be sure to instruct them on each of your subtopics.

***FOR ALL MATERIALS RELATED TO THIS PROJECT,   
INCLUDING SUGGESTED SOURCES OF INFORMATION, VISIT***[**http://fchslibrary.wikispaces.com/Oedipus+Mixbook**](http://fchslibrary.wikispaces.com/Oedipus+Mixbook) ***.***

**Topics:**

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Sophocles | VI. Oracles |
| 1. Sphinx | VII. Oedipus Myth / Oedipal Complex |
| 1. Greek Drama | 1. Social Aspects of Ancient Greece |
| 1. Greek Theater | 1. Daily Life in Ancient Greece |
| 1. Dionysus |  |

**I. Sophocles**

He is the playwright (author) of *Oedipus Rex*, the play we are going to read in class.

1. When and where was Sophocles born? (2 answers are acceptable.) When and where did he die?
2. Who were his contemporaries (the other playwrights at his time)?
3. What were his accomplishments? Why do we still study his works today?
4. What were his dramas like and what major changes were made to the theater?
5. How many of Sophocles’ plays have survived? What are they and which 3 are related?
6. After his death, how did the Athenians feel about him?
7. Provide any other information that you feel is important or interesting.

**II. Sphinx**

1. What was the Sphinx? Describe the creatures that made up the different parts of the Sphinx.
2. What problem was the Sphinx causing?
3. From whom did the Sphinx learn her riddle?
4. What was the Sphinx’s riddle?
5. Who solves the riddle, and what was the solution?
6. What happens to the Sphinx after the riddle is solved, and what happens to Oedipus?
7. Provide any other information that you feel is important or interesting.

**III. Characteristics of Greek Drama**

1. Provide a history of Greek drama.
2. Greek drama began as a religious observance in honor of which god? Explain.
3. Describe the Greek dramatic festivals.
4. Only how many characters can be on stage at once in a Greek play? Explain the chorus and Choragos.
5. What were the plays like?
6. How was violence portrayed?
7. Provide any other information that you feel is important or interesting.

**IV. Ancient Greek Theater**

1. Give physical characteristics of the Ancient Greek Theater, and provide a diagram in your Mixbook (include parts of the stage and theatre).
2. Where were the theaters located?
3. Who went to the theater, and who sat where?
4. What were the actors like? Early plays had how many actors?
5. What were the costumes like? Where did the actors change costumes?
6. How could the audience see and hear in this theater?
7. Provide any other information that you feel is important or interesting.

**V. Dionysus (also Dionysos)**

1. Explain the Cult of Dionysus.
2. What was Dionysus the god of?
3. What was this god like?
4. Why is this god important to the theater?
5. How did the Greeks celebrate this god?
6. Explain Dionysus' relationship to the other gods.
7. Provide any other information that you feel is important or interesting.

**VI. Oracles and the Ancient Greeks**

Research and explain the Oracle at Delphi.

1. What is an oracle (3 different things)?
2. When was the Delphic oracle made?
3. What did the oracle do? Give the details of the oracle.
4. Who came to this oracle and Why?
5. What is a Pythia, and what is the purpose of the Pythia?
6. How was the Pythia chosen?
7. Provide any other information that you feel is important or interesting.

**VII. The Oedipus Myth / Oedipal Complex**

Research and explain the Oedipus myth.

1. Explain this myth from beginning to end. (You may need more than one page for this)
2. Explain all the characters in this myth and how they relate.
3. Define the term myth.
4. Explain how the Oedipus Myth meets this definition.
5. Explain the psychological term Oedipal Complex.
6. Explain how the psychological term relates to the myth.
7. Provide any other information that you feel is important or interesting.

**VIII. Social Aspects of Ancient Greeks**

Research and Explain the following about the ancient Greeks:

1. Explain Greek city-states, including: government, military, and their relationships with other city-states. Which were the most powerful city-states?
2. What was the social class system like?
3. What was the role of women in society?
4. Describe their marriage customs.
5. What kinds of jobs did men and women have?
6. Explain the ancient Greeks’ religious beliefs.
7. Provide any other information that you feel is important or interesting.

**IX. Daily Life in Ancient Greece**

1. We have very few archaeological remains of the time to tell us about Greek homes and daily life. What kind of art reveals to us many of the details of daily life?
2. What were ancient Greek schools like? Who attended school?
3. What pastimes (activities) did they enjoy?
4. What was their diet like?
5. What types of clothing did they wear?
6. What was the ideal in female beauty to the Greeks?
7. Provide any other information that you feel is important or interesting.